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exhibits much painstaking labor and in which the author has successfully accomplished his task within the limits planned by him. These two volumes represent an advanced state of historical knowledge, and will be found very useful as a repertory of the main facts of English history to the accession of Henry II. It is to be hoped that Mr. Ramsay will soon bridge the gap between *The Foundations of England* and *Lancaster and York*.

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The Origin and Growth of the English Constitution. Part II : The After-Growth of the Constitution. By HANNIS TAYLOR, LL.D. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1898. — xlv, 655 pp.

Finally, after the lapse of nearly ten years, Mr. Hannis Taylor has issued the last installment of his work on the English constitution. It is in some respects unfortunate that the publication of the second part has been so long delayed, for already the first volume needs revision in some important points. Thus, when the author began writing, the influence of Freeman was greater than it is to-day, and much more importance was attributed to the *tun* and to primitive communism as elements in English development than at the present time. That Mr. Taylor has not kept wholly abreast of later literature on the subject is indicated by the fact that near the close of the present volume (p. 552) we find him speaking of folkland as "the land of the people." Again, to the theory with which he started out, and which he reaffirms in the present volume (p. 184), that England was formed by an aggregation of townships into hundreds, and of hundreds into counties, and of counties into a kingdom, such importance as he claims would not at present be attributed. Besides the impossibility of proving any such assertion, the theory ignores the possibility, if not the probability, that the administrative system of southern England was in the tenth century extended by governmental act over large parts of middle and northern England. If the theory fails as applied to England, its significance as an explanation of the growth of institutions in English-America is by so much lessened, and of its value for this purpose Mr. Taylor made much in the introduction to his first volume. This immediately suggests another fault in the work when considered as a whole. Mr. Taylor has not made good the promise which appears on his title-page, in the preface to his first volume and elsewhere, that he would show the growth out of the English system of government of the federal republic of the United

States. That would be a most valuable service, and would constitute one of the most interesting chapters in institutional history. It was naturally to be expected that the promise would be fulfilled in the second volume; but instead we find there only three or four brief references to American affairs (pp. 32, 233, 504), and those, save the last, not of special importance. It would be unfair, however, to conclude that Mr. Taylor thinks he has proven his thesis by the few dogmatic and *a priori* statements contained in the introduction to his first volume. Rather, one would infer that he has found the task too large and too difficult to be performed at present, and has reserved the subject for separate treatment.

In reference to the contents of this volume and its arrangement, the reviewer can speak with qualified approval. The author does well to begin his treatment of modern times with the accession of the House of York; for that, rather than the battle of Bosworth Field, was the real turning point. By insisting on the modified and vast power, at that time, of the king in council, he shows clearly the nature of the Tudor system of government. But, had he read the introduction to Mr. Prothero's collection of documents, he could have made his description of this power more complete, by showing the influence which the crown had over the selection of speakers of the Commons and the control which the speakers had over legislation. This might have led him, in seeking an explanation of the alleged decline in the relative position of the Commons, to attribute less influence than he does to the narrowing of the suffrage. In this connection references to the history of the speakership in the parliaments of Charles I would also have been valuable. Mr. Taylor exaggerates the effect of the statute, 31 Henry VIII, chapter viii, on proclamations, by not stating the limitations contained in the statute itself. Again, in his treatment of the divorce question, we notice no reference to Gairdner's latest studies on the subject, which have appeared in the *English Historical Review*; nor, under the dissolution of the monasteries, to Father Gasquet's well-known and valuable work. The author also accepts Froude's date (1529) of the famous petition of the Commons against the church courts, whereas 1532 is the correct date. An examination of the works of the economic historians would probably have led to improvements in his treatment of the origin of pauperism and poor relief. Finally—for what reason does not clearly appear—Mr. Taylor adopts the view of Green, and makes Cromwell responsible for the most important events of the reign subsequent to the fall of Wolsey. Nothing shows more

clearly the need of a thorough study of the constitution under the Tudors than the divergence among scholars in the estimate they put upon the share which Henry VIII bore in the events of his time.

The events of Elizabeth's reign really hinged on foreign relations, but from Mr. Taylor's method of treatment one would hardly infer that perils from that quarter were then more decisive than they were in the time of Henry VIII. The conflict with the pope, Spain and Mary is not thrown into proper relief. In his reference to Calvinism he fails to take into account the aristocratic elements in the system. We are also unable to find a clear statement of the points in the Anglican ritual to which the Puritans objected.

In his treatment of the first two Stuarts Mr. Taylor adopts substantially the views of Gardiner, and to that course little objection can be made. His chapters on the period of the Restoration suffer again from the too persistent ignoring of foreign relations, for at that time also the dominant influences come from abroad. To the history of the period since the accession of the House of Hanover less than 150 pages are devoted, while more than twice that space is given to the two preceding centuries. The result of this failure to observe due proportion is that no attention is given to the industrial revolution or to the growth of democracy, save that which is necessary for the bare mention of the reform acts and of the legislation which has proceeded from the reform parliaments. The chapter on the nineteenth century is very inadequate, and we should be glad if the treatment of the latter part of the eighteenth century were in some respects more complete than it is.

One general criticism also may be suggested concerning the arrangement of material — that is, a protest against the frequent digressions and the repetitions which these often involve. For example, after having expounded at length the conciliar system of the Tudors, the author twice returns to the same subject in later parts of the volume. In this way he not infrequently repeats statements which have been made with sufficient clearness in the first volume. These digressions the student will often find convenient for purposes of reference, but they break the continuity of the narrative and take the place of matter which can ill be spared.

But in spite of such faults as have been mentioned, the reader will find that Mr. Taylor's volumes constitute a useful work of reference, replete with facts and citations which have been brought together with great care and labor and set forth in a spirit of commendable impartiality.

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